

Employers

Turning Diversity into Dollars...

The Benefits of Hiring Workers with Disabilities

“The Social Security Administration’s NEW Ticket to Work program may be a way for your company to be PAID in excess of \$20,000 when you hire employees with disabilities who are SSA beneficiaries.”

— Leslie L. Wilson, CEO, Wilson Resources, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida

The Social Security Administration (SSA) pays benefits to qualified people with disabilities under two different programs: Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. More than 11 million Americans are receiving these monthly benefits and many of these beneficiaries want to work.

SSA’s Ticket to Work (TTW) program is aimed at providing beneficiaries with disabilities with the resources and choices to secure gainful employment.

An employer who becomes an approved Employment Network (EN) in SSA’s TTW program can receive payments based on hiring a qualified beneficiary with a disability who attains certain levels of earnings. These payments can potentially exceed \$20,000 per beneficiary.

The TTW program increases an employer’s opportunities for success:

- Grow your bottom line! You can get PAID for hiring qualified employees who happen to be currently receiving disability benefits from SSA.
- Gain easier access to the employees you need! SSA offers a large pool of beneficiaries who want to work.
- Diversify your workforce and get paid for meeting Affirmative Action requirements!
- Expand and diversify your business connections! The TTW program encourages collaboration between employers and other community organizations.
- Receive timely and responsive support from SSA! The TTW program offers a streamlined application process, training, responsive support, and tracking of your claims through to payment. There is guidance and assistance at every step.

Some of the earliest payments are made based on the beneficiary having earnings consistent with part-time work and have the potential to generate more than \$4,700 in the first nine months of the beneficiary’s



employment. (Please note that EN payments are dependent on a number of variables and may be different for each beneficiary who is hired.)

When you hire people with disabilities participating in SSA's TTW program, you may also be able to take the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). The WOTC reduces employers' federal income tax liability by as much as \$2,400 per qualified worker in the first 12 months. That is for each new hire.

If you are able to take advantage of the SSA's Ticket to Work and the WOTC, you may be able to recoup more than \$7,000 in first year wages for each new employee with a disability. For more information on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, visit: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/Incentives/opptax/>

For more information about SSA's Ticket to Work program, please visit: www.ssa.gov/work or call SSA's Program Manager for Recruitment and Outreach, CESSI at 1-877-743-8237 (v/tty).